

Department of Social Work: NSS & UBA

*Report for
the month
of January
2022*

I. Departmental meetings:

This month one department meeting was held to discuss about various upcoming online events for semester VI students of both the campuses.

II. Coordination meeting:

- i. **Meeting with Vice Principal of Raghampur campus:** On 27th January, a telephonic meeting was held with Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. to discuss about scheduling NSS orientation programme for first year students and online activities for third year students. In the meeting it was decided that the NSS orientation will be scheduled in the first week of February. The staff informed Father Vice Principal that various online activities were planned for third year students.

III. Youth – The Game Changers – Observing National Youth Day 2022

12th January is the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and is celebrated as National Youth Day. On this occasion the National Service Scheme (NSS) organised a virtual interactive session on MS Teams platform for the students to enlighten them on the life of Swamiji and his ideals which has been adopted by NSS nationally. About 230 students across departments participated in this session.

The theme for this session was '**Youth – The Game Changers**'. Ms. Cheryl Francis introduced the theme to the students and its relevance to the occasion. She explained how Swamiji, a youth icon, depended on the energy and determination that every youth possessed. She cited some incidents from his life which exemplified his simplicity and high ideals. She added as to how by the lectures and speeches of Swami Vivekananda, many youths were inspired to ideas of social-service and character-building.

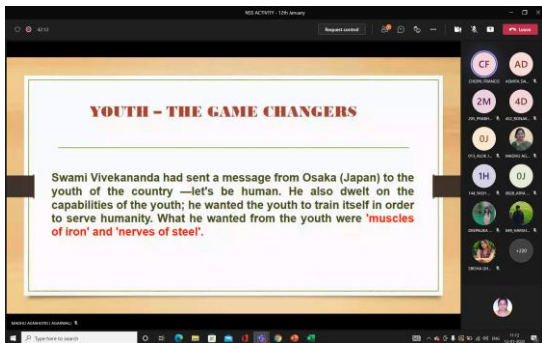
Ma'am Cheryl stressed on Swami Vivekananda's message which he sent from Osaka (Japan) to the youth of the country — "**Let's be Human**". She emphasized on the fact that he wanted the youth to train themselves in order to serve humanity. What he wanted from the youth were '**muscles of iron**' and '**nerves of steel**'.

Ma'am Cheryl concluded by motivating the students to become Game Changers – in their own families, in their neighbourhood, and wherever possible. She cited examples of how in the present context with the pandemic on one hand and with fake news, hate mongering and so on, how the Youth who have the power of the digital world, can become Game Changers and challenge the negative vibes and make our country more peace loving, progressive, and where every human being will be able to live with respect and dignity.

To break the monotony of talk, the students were then given a quiz on Swami Vivekananda which they had to complete within 15 minutes. The next session conducted by Ms. Sucheta Mukherjee, cited examples of how young people as young as 4 years old, were making a difference in the lives of people. The 4-year-old donated her piggy bank savings for a migrant worker in Gujarat. On the other hand, a 17-year-old Aryan Gulati from Delhi, developed web-based application Lung AI which helped in detecting the Covid-19 virus as well as 16 other lung disorders in just three to five seconds. For this innovation, Aryan won the Atmanirbhar Bharat Ideathon. Many more such examples were shared with the students ranging from how a radio jockey through her programme raised awareness on Covid-19 vaccination which resulted in the inoculation of a whole village, to a young boy in Tamil Nadu raising awareness about rising fake news and its negative impact. Ma'am Sucheta further shared about various NGOs in the country that were led by the youth and for the youth and encouraged students to volunteer in such organisations which were committed to bringing sustainable development.

The students were given some time to interact, ask questions or even express their views and opinions. It was encouraging to hear how some students helped in their own capacity during the pandemic. Someone said how she was trying to break certain stereotypes in her younger brother. She believed that change begins from within.

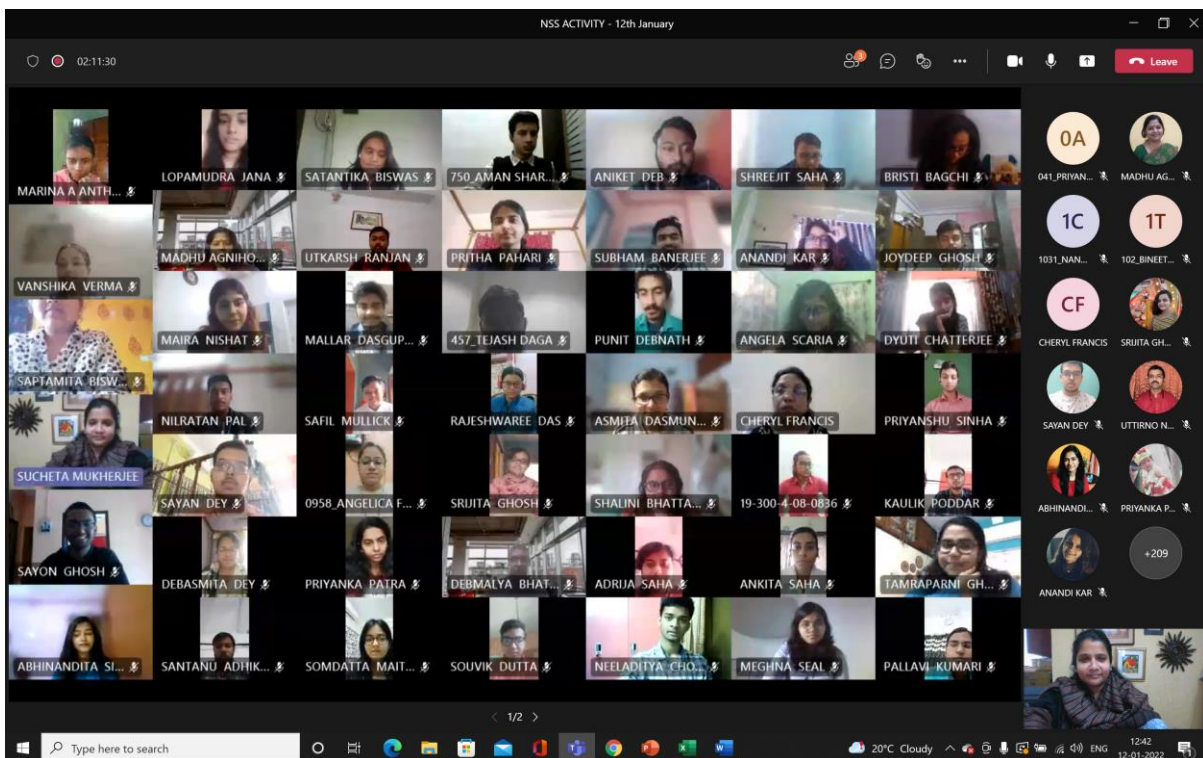
In conclusion the students were given a feedback form to be filled and sent within two hours. The intent of this session was to reverberate the message of Swami Vivekananda to every Youth of this nation and motive the students to become women and men for others. Ma'am Cheryl thanked Dr. Madhu Agnihotri for helping with all technical support and thanked the students for being an interactive audience.



Sharing about the teachings of Swamiji



Student sharing about his volunteering experience



Group picture at the end of the session

I. Coordination and networking meetings:

- i. **Meeting with Vice Principal of Raghampur campus:** On 27th January, a telephonic meeting was held with Rev. Fr. Johnson Padiyara, S.J. to discuss about UBA project. Ma'am Cheryl Francis reminded Father Vice Principal that the department needs to meet the BDO and discuss possible avenues for collaboration to take forward the activities under UBA. Father would seek an appointment from the BDO in the first week of February. As a follow-up to this meeting, a strategy note on possible areas of collaboration with the BDO was submitted to Father Vice Principal.
- ii. **Coordination with SHG members of all adopted villages:** Around 2 telephonic calls were made with the SHG members of all adopted villages to touch base with them. During the calls, the staff enquired about the pandemic situation in the villages. Given the spread of COVID-19 in the adopted villages, it was decided to stall UBA related activities in the villages for the time being and resume once the situation improves.
